

Message Text

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10

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

IO-13 DPW-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /141 W

----- 042457

R 081530Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 507

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW

SUBJECT: PALME DEMANDS BOMB STOP IN CAMBODIA

REF: STOCKHOLM 2665

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY. IN CAMPAIGN SPEECH PRIMIN PALME CALLS FOR STOP
IN US BOMBING OF CAMBODIA, DECLARING IT WILL ONLY PRODUCE
HUMAN SUFFERING AND WILL NOT ADVANCE CAUSE OF PEACE.
PALME SAYS IN RAISING PROTEST VOICE HE IS DEFENDING
RIGHTS OF SMALL COUNTRIES TO INDEPENDENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIMIN PALME SAID IN CAMPAIGN SPEECH IN SUNDSVALL
AUGUST 7 THAT US BOMBINGS OF CAMBODIA SHOULD BE STOPPED
FORTHWITH. PALME STARTED BY READING ALOUD PRESS REPORTS
ON NEAK LUONG BOMBING AND ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER
THIS CONCERNED SWEDES. ACCORDING RESS REPORTS, PALME
CONTINUED: "THE REPLY IS SIMPLE. THIS DOES CONCERN US.
ALL OF US GATHERED HERE FEEL SYMPATHY IN FACE OF THIS
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HUMAN SUFFERING WHICH BRUTALLY AND WITHOUT ANY FOREWARN-

ING WHATSOEVER IS INFILCTED UPON INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE.
BUT NOT ONLY DO WE FEEL SYMPATHY, WE FEEL INDIGNATION.

2. "IT WAS BY MISTAKE THAT THAT TOWN WAS BOMBED. BUT THINGS BECOME ALL THE WORSE WHEN ONE REMEMBERS THAT IT IS NOT BY MISTAKE THAT BOMBS ARE DROPPED OVER CAMBODIA. SOME TIME AGO US CONGRESS DEMANDED BOMBING BE STOPPED. PRESIDENT WANTED TO CONTINUE BOMBINGS BUT PROMISED TO STOP THEM BY AUGUST 15. THUS, THE BOMBS WILL BE DROPPED FOR ONE MORE WEEK. WHEN IT CAME TO VIETNAM, IT WAS ASSERTED THAT THEY BOMBED TO WIN THE WAR AND TO FORCE THE ENEMY TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. IN CAMBODIA, THEY CAN CONTINUE BOMBING BECAUSE IT IS NOT YET AUGUST 15.

3. "BOMBING OF CAMBODIA SHOULD CEASE IMMEDIATELY. ONE WEEK MORE OF BOMBS DOES NOT MAKE THE WORLD MORE SECURE. IT WILL NOT BRING US CLOSER TO PEACE. IN PRESENT SITUATION, WE HARBOR NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT BEING ABLE TO INFLUENCE US ADMINISTRATION. BUT WE MUST NONETHELESS SPEAK OUR MIND, AND WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK OUR MIND, AND WE MUST NOT BE AFRAID OF SPEAKING OUR MIND. IT ALSO LIES IN OUR OWN INTEREST AS SMALL NEUTRAL NATION TO ASSERT THAT RIGHT."

4. RECALLING SWEDISH PROTEST AGAINST US-RVN INCURSION INTO CAMBODIA IN 1970, PALME SAID: "WE SAW IN THAT DEVELOPMENT A DANGER TO THE PRINCIPLE OF A SMALL COUNTRY'S RIGHT OF INDEPENDENCE. THIS IS WHY IT WAS IN OUR OWN INTEREST TO PROTEST. THIS IS A FUNDAMENTAL THESIS WHICH IS OF IMPORTANCE TO US AS A COUNTRY AND NATION AND WHICH WE THEREBY UPHELD AND DEFENDED, JUST AS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA FIVE YEARS AGO." END UNCLASSIFIED.

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COMMENT: PALME'S SPEECH SHOWS HE HAS NOT ALTERED HIS VIEWS ON INDOCHINA SITUATION. HIS RAISING OF CAMBODIA BOMBING ISSUE DOVETAILS WITH FNL CAMPAIGN (REFTEL). PRESUMPTION IS THAT "STOP THE BOMBING" SENTIMENT IS GOOD POLITICS. WHATEVER OPPOSITION LEADERS THINK
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ABOUT IT PRIVATELY, THEY WILL NOT CHALLENGE PALME ON THIS ISSUE.
OLSEN

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